Cataract surgeries in Andhra Pradesh

1694. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Andhra Pradesh stood first in the country in the number of cataract surgeries performed at various eye camps in a year under the National Programme for Control of Blindness;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the State of Andhra Pradesh stands second and in eye donations among the South Indian States;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to boost their efforts to control the blindness; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Andhra Pradesh stands fifth as per Cataract Surgery Rate per lakh population for the year 2003-04. Details are given in the enclosed Statement (*see* below).

(b) Yes, Sir. Details are given in the enclosed Statement (*see* below).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Grant-in-aid is provided to the State for various activities under National Programme for Control of Blindess including assistance for performing free catarac surgeries and eye donations.